

## **Roger Brooke Taney to Andrew Jackson, January 4, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY TO JACKSON.

Baltimore, January 4, 1844.

My Dear sir, We are again at the beginning of a new year, and I am thankful that we have both been preserved to see the return of this season, 0275 251 and I send you my cordial and warmest wishes for the health of yourself, and of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and their children, in which Mrs. Taney and my girls all join me. The Supreme Court begins on Monday next, and I must then be in Washington, and you will readily imagine how sensible I am of the changes which have taken place in the persons I am to meet there, and how different it is from those early days of January when you were there with the crowds of warm hearted friends, who delighted to gather around you. I was forcibly reminded of some of those scenes, when I was in Virginia a short time ago holding a circuit court. I returned by the way of Norfolk, and being detained there a day waiting for the steam boat to Baltimore, I visited the Navy Yard where the Constitution is now undergoing repairs, and had the pleasure seeing the famous Figure Head, 1 standing firmly in its place, at the head of that noble Frigate, where I doubt not it will remain as long as she floats, in spite of mob violence and party rancour. This was the first time I had ever seen this famous Frigate, and I looked at her with the more pleasure, because the figure at her head so closely and justly associates your name with hers.

1 Commodore Elliott, in refitting the Constitution at Boston in 1834, placed a wooden figure of Jackson on her for a figure-head. The Whigs of Boston were highly scandalized and a loud protest arose. An adventurous sailor got on the ship in a thunderstorm and cut off the

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head of the figure. After a time it was restored and remained on the ship. See Hollis, *The Frigate Constitution* , pp. 220–227.

I am very glad to have seen the elections since I last wrote to you turn out so much more favourably than they did in the spring and summer. Our friends seem now to feel the necessity of healing their divisions, and harmonizing together, to meet the common enemy, and I trust that when the convention meets in the Spring, they will be able to produce unanimity and concert among our friends. They will need all their undivided strength, for I judge from what I see that the struggle will be a most vehement one on the other side.

I see they are again debating in Congress the restoration of the fine imposed upon you by Judge Hall. One is surprised to see how party spirit blinds men, for if there is any thing upon which the people of this country have made up their minds, it is that the fine was most unjustly imposed, and the men who oppose its restoration under any pretext, will find that their opposition does not increase their popularity. How much I regret the loss of our most excellent friend Doctr. Linn and the more so when this subject is to be discussed. He always stood deservedly most high with his countrymen but the manly and noble stand he took when he publicly announced on the floor of the Senate his determination to repel and resent any attack there upon your fame, endeared him to all your friends, and made us all feel more sensibly and deeply his loss. Yet I know you have many true and fearless friends there still, who will be ready to vindicate you, and indeed it would be a reproach to the country if you did not find such friends, in every public body elected by the people or the States.

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Repeating my Dear sir our affectionate remembrance to you, and to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and your family

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I am most truly Your friend